

## Abstract

The object of the present invention is to provide *Koji* mold aminopeptidases capable of efficiently hydrolyzing persistent peptides and also genes encoding the aminopeptidases. The present invention provides *Aspergillus nidulans* aminopeptidase and nucleic acid molecules encoding it. In particular, the present invention provides a protein having an amino acid sequence represented by amino acid Nos. 1 to 519 in SEQ ID NO: 2, or a protein containing the substitution, deletion, insertion, addition or inversion of one or more amino acids in said sequence, and which protein has an activity of catalyzing the reaction for releasing an amino acid at an N-terminal of a peptide, and nucleic acid molecules encoding them.